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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,911	12/21/2001	Richard T. Ida	1280.SC11963ZC	9938

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EXAMINER

JACKSON JR, JEROME

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2815

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,911

Applicant(s)

IDA ET AL.

Examiner

Jerome Jackson Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-21, 23-27 and 29-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 20 and 30-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19, 21, 23-27 and 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/9/04
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 18,20,30-40, 42,43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's prior art admissions (APA) in view of Leidich '931 and Mapother '406.

On pages 1 and 2 of the specification applicant has admitted that it was known to provide protection diodes between voltage reference lines "using opposing p-n junction diodes in parallel". These breakdown protection diodes are fundamental zener diode protection devices. Leidich and Mapother teach more advanced protection devices in the form of thyristors. See the disclosure in column 1 of Leidich on the use of thyristors for protection devices. It would have been fundamentally obvious to have substituted protection thyristors for protection diodes between isolated ground lines because protection thyristors offer improved control properties over diodes. Note that the anode 8A of Mapother is connected only to a p type region. Claim 18 is fundamentally obvious over the teachings and suggestions of the applied art. There is no recitation of voltage or capacitance magnitudes in claim 18. Claim 20 is rejected as the process used to form the device does not structurally distinguish the final product over the applied art. Also, patentability of a product by process claim is determined by the final product, regardless of how actually made, In re Hirao 190 USPQ 15 at 17 (footnote 3). See also In re Brown 173 USPQ 685; In re Luck 177 USPQ 523; In re Fessman 180 USPQ 324; In re Avery

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186 USPQ 161; In re Wertheim 191 USPQ 90; and In re Morosi 218 USPQ 289, all of which make it clear that it is patentability of the final product per se which must be determined in a "product by process" claim, and not the patentability of the process, and that an old or obvious product produced by a new method is not patentable as a product, whether claimed in "product by process" claims or not. Note that applicant has the burden of proof in such cases, as the above caselaw makes clear.

Claims 30-38 are rejected as above. See the doped regions of Mapother in figure 1. The recitation of "wells" does not structurally distinguish over Mapother where regions as shown may be labeled "wells". Claims 42 and 43 are rejected as applicant's prior art admissions teach "ground" node protection and Mapother teaches a common conductivity type region connected to the anode (p-type). Claim 39 is rejected Mapother teaches a voltage trigger control connected to the second and third regions. See 4A and 6A. Claim 40 is rejected as applicant's prior art admissions show zener diode triggering and thus it would have been obvious to have practiced a similar zener triggering structure in Mapother for low voltage triggering.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA with Leidich, Mapother, and further in view of Consiglio '047 or Duvvury '380.

From Consiglio or Duvvury it would have been obvious to have practiced field effect triggering for control advantages. See the filed effect triggering in each reference (322 of '380 and 44 of '047). Claim 41 is obvious structure.

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Claims 19,21,23-27,29, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant's arguments with respect to all the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Jackson Jr. whose telephone number is 571 272 1730. The examiner can normally be reached on t-th 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on 571 272 1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jj



JEROME JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER